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# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner*  
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#### **CLOSURE OF SUBSISTENCE AND COMMERCIAL FISHING AREAS TO CONSERVE CHILKAT RIVER KING SALMON**

Haines — The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced today that due to a low preseason forecast for Chilkat River king salmon abundance, commercial and subsistence fisheries in Lynn Canal, Chilkat Inlet, and the Chilkat River will be managed conservatively.

Commercial, sport, and subsistence fisheries in Lynn Canal and Chilkat Inlet are managed under the *Lynn Canal and Chilkat River King Salmon Fishery Management Plan* (5 AAC 33.384). This plan directs the department to manage fisheries to achieve an inriver run of 1,850 – 3,600 large (three ocean age and older) king salmon. The inriver run goal was not achieved in 2012, 2013, 2014, or 2016, and the 2017 preseason inriver forecast is for a Chilkat River king salmon run that will fall short of the lower bound of the inriver abundance goal if normal fisheries occur.

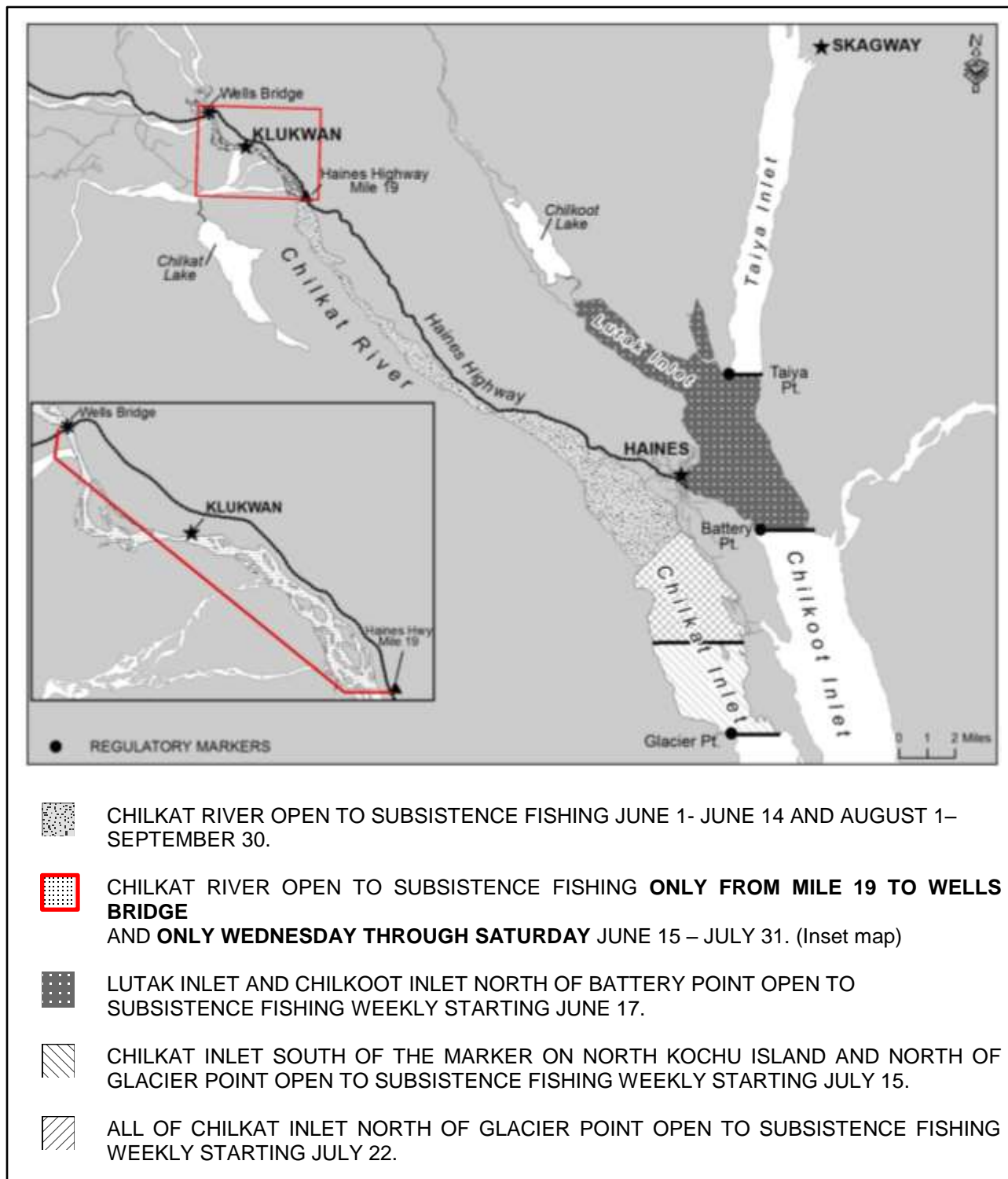
The subsistence fishery in Chilkat Inlet will be closed through July 14, 2017. From July 15 through July 22, the subsistence fishery in Chilkat Inlet will be closed north of the latitude of the department marker at the north end of Kochu Island. The subsistence fishery in Lutak Inlet and Chilkoot Inlet north of Battery Point will open as normal on June 17, 2017.

The subsistence fishery in the Chilkat River, excluding that portion of the river between Haines Highway mile 19 and the Wells Bridge, will be closed June 15 – July 31. The Chilkat River between Haines Highway mile 19 and the Wells Bridge will be closed Sunday through Tuesday of each week from June 15 – July 31.

Commercial salmon fishing in Chilkat Inlet north of Seduction Point will be closed for the first four weeks of the season. In addition, commercial fishing in the western portion of Section 15-A south of Seduction Point will be closed for the first three weeks of the season. Time and area restrictions will also be implemented in Section 15-C. Six-inch maximum gillnet mesh size restrictions will be implemented in Section 15-C for first two weeks of the season, and for the first three weeks in Section 15-A.

The department requests that all king salmon incidentally caught in subsistence fisheries be released to assist in rebuilding the Chilkat River king salmon run. Please refer to landmarks shown on the map on the following page identifying the closed areas.

The Emergency Orders corresponding with this news release are EO 1S0717.



News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

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